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**For Immediate Release****FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON MAXIMIZING EFFICIENT USE OF  
12 GHz BAND*****Agency Seeking Input on Feasibility of Allowing Mobile Services  
While Protecting Incumbents from Harmful Interference***

WASHINGTON, January 15, 2021—The Federal Communications Commission has adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on how to maximize efficient use of the 500 megahertz of mid-band spectrum in the 12.2-12.7 GHz band. This action will advance a conversation as to whether terrestrial mobile wireless service could coexist with existing operations in the band without causing harmful interference to incumbent licensees.

In the United States, the 12 GHz band is currently licensed to Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) operators, non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) satellite systems, and fixed service providers—all on a co-primary basis. DISH Network and DirecTV, the two DBS licensees, use this spectrum to provide video programming content to millions of American consumers. The Commission has authorized several NGSO constellations in recent years to operate using this spectrum, in coordination with one-way, fixed Multichannel Video Distribution and Data Service (MVDDS). NGSO and MVDDS services must operate on a non-harmful interference basis with respect to DBS.

The item adopted by the Commission seeks comment on whether it is possible to add mobile service throughout the 12 GHz band without causing harmful interference to incumbent licensees. The [Notice](#) draws no tentative conclusions but seeks comment on whether there are technical parameters that would allow additional terrestrial shared use of the band, methods for assigning flexible use rights in the band, and potential sharing mechanisms for the band if coexistence among the incumbent services and new flexible use service is technically feasible. The Notice also seeks comment on whether the public interest benefits of maintaining the current allocations and framework for the band outweigh the potential benefits of accommodating new services in the band.

The Commission is dedicated to ensuring that spectrum is put to its highest-value and most efficient use, while also protecting incumbent licensees, in order to make more spectrum available for next-generation services, such as 5G.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*